

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012
AT 5:00 PM AT TOWN HALL**

Called to order at 5:04 PM

Present: 36 Town Electors including Town Board members Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross & Larry Whalen; including Board member-elect Nick Nelson; including department heads: Keith Sowl, Jen Croonborg-Murphy.

I. Approval of Annual Town Budget: Motion to approve by Burke Henry/second by Greg Thury. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Annual Town Meeting April 12, 2011 Motion to approve by Mike Starck/second by Gary Russell. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Town Meeting December 5, 2011 Motion to approve by Beth Fischlowitz, second by Ham Ross. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Issues From the People

Mary Ross asked where the Town is at on the hiring of a Town Administrator.

Greg Nelson answered that the Board hopes to finalize the job description tonight and then get the position posted with a possible start date in July or August.

Ham Ross stated that he is unclear as to why newly elected Town Supervisors are not starting their term at tonight's meeting like they used to do.

Patty Hobin explained the change in the Voting Law that drives this change. [Wisconsin Act 115]

Nick Vander Puy moved to establish a tribal relations committee. Seconded by Greg Thury. Vote: 31 ayes; no nays. Motion carries. The committee would consist of representatives from the Red Cliff Band of the Ojibwe, the Bad River Band of the Ojibwe and the Town of La Pointe.

Points of discussion as follows:

Keith Sowl said: the committee would require strong leadership; the Town has already had significant conversations with Red Cliff [regarding Town projects]. The success of the committee would depend on who wants to work and how hard.

Marty Curry pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan only mentions tribal relations with the Red Cliff band; the Comprehensive Plan would need to be amended.

Greg Nelson replied that that can be done anytime. He went on to point out that comments made at the Annual Town Meeting are advisory in nature, but that he felt that such a committee would be beneficial with the right people.

Nick Nelson said: it appears that the committee seems one-way towards us [the Island]

Nick Vander Puy replied that there would be "back & forth."

Ham Ross stated that the Town should not get involved in any movement by the tribe to end the leases on tribal property on the north end of the Island. If the tribe says that the leaseholders must leave, then they must leave.

Jim Patterson reiterated the need for two-way dialogue; approves of the idea.

Mike Starck asked who the committee would report to.

Greg Nelson said that the ad hoc committee process would be used.

Marina Lachecki said that she supports the concept and appreciates the Town's efforts so far. She added that is important to know what is needed. She asked if there had been any conversation about this idea at the tribal level. She added that there is a need for input from all three layers.

Ed Kale said that the CAPP committee had once considered such a committee but there seemed to be no interest at that time.

Beth Fischlowitz pointed out that there are many protocols already in place regarding tribal relations and intergovernmental structure.

Gary Russell suggested that there have to be other instances of collaboration such as this; perhaps there should be some research on how other places to do this.

Mike Starck commended Beth Fischlowitz on her service to the Town.

Beth Fischlowitz thanked the gentlemen of the board for their "patience, warmth and collegiality."

Greg Thury suggested that the Town find a more permanent and agreeable solution to parking versus the use of space for retail at the corner of Middle Rd. & Main St. He added that the Town Plan Commission [TPC] had solved the issue by saying that anything that was there in the last twelve months is "grandfathered."

Points of discussion as follows:

Ham Ross declared that this is an "intractable issue" and referred it to the TPC.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated that according to the ordinance no parking space in a commercial use zone is to be converted to another use. However, the TPC has approved some of these uses as non-conforming uses and "grandfathered" anything that has been there in the last twelve months. She added that anyone can appeal the interpretation.

Beth Fischlowitz said that signs showing the way to municipal parking would help to solve the problem. She also suggested cleaning out the lot at the school.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated that the mixed use of space is the problem

Beth Fischlowitz reiterated that the problem calls for signage.

Greg Thury suggested calculating how much space is needed [per ordinance] for each business store front.

Jim Patterson noted that there is plenty of parking all year long at the both the parking lot adjacent to the laundromat and the at the tennis court.

Burke Henry added that signage could help; but he also asked if the parking lots are being abused; are people being ticketed for parking there for too long.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy answered yes; she then explained that the Condo Association owns some of the parking spaces.

Burke Henry asked how to make sure cars get moved when they've been parked at the lots in excess of the allowed time.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy said to talk to Chief Anderson.

Keith Sowl said that he is always complaining to Chief Anderson about this. He suggested that there be a charge for using those spots.

Elaine Nelson asked if parking all day at the lot next to the post office is allowed.

Ham Ross said yes.

Jan Smith suggested that parking at the tennis court parking lot would be more appealing if there was a marked path going into downtown.

Greg Nelson responded that there is room for sidewalks.

Larry Hobin asked if RV parking downtown is allowed.

Greg Nelson responded that most people tow a vehicle behind their RV.

Larry Hobin asked if there would be signs saying "No RV Parking" on downtown streets.

Greg Nelson asked if the skate park is still being used; there would be space there for RV parking.

Keith Sowl said that there are always spots available at the Rec Center.

Elaine Nelson asked if there is any plan to move the post office.

Greg Nelson explained that the Town has no authority to move the post office, but that consideration of the congestion at the post office is part of the harbor development plan. He called it a traffic nightmare and stated that the Town does need to get involved in a solution.

Ed Kale asked if anything can be done about the semi that is parked downtown.

Greg Nelson responded that many letters have been sent to the owner.

Ken Peterson explained the process of moving the post office. The Town would have to find a building and offer it for lease.

Motion by Greg Thury to direct the TPC to create a compromise for uses of parking spaces and a more elaborate solution at the corner of Main St. and Middle Rd. and to direct that signs be posted regarding parking. Second by Beth Fischlowitz.

Vote: 30 ayes; 6 nays. Motion carries.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy repeats her request for rehabbing the Rec Center. She pointed to other projects that have been funded ahead of this project. She gave as reasons 1.) the need to attract young families; 2.) a space for the elderly; and 3.) a possible daycare center.

Marty Curry asked about the accommodations tax: can it be down away with or at least applied equitably.

Beth Fischlowitz responded that the accommodations tax is a state issue.

Burke Henry asked if Madeline Island School of the Arts is being taxed for accommodations.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy replied that it is not, and that she has no idea why not.

Clerk to research: if Madeline Island School for the Arts is a not-for-profit, but Craftivity, Inc. is for profit, then should accommodations tax be paid on the accommodations which are owned and administered by Craftivity, Inc.

Motion by Keith Sowl to move the Annual Town Meeting to the third Tuesday in April; second by Beth Fischlowitz. Motion carries unanimously.

Clerk's note: this is a statutory requirement per Wisconsin Act 115.

Motion by Keith Sowl to set Nick Nelson's rate of pay as Assistant Ambulance Director at \$116.66 per month; second by Larry Hobin. Motion carries unanimously.

Marty Curry asked if there would be any effort made by the Town to remove deadfall due to the high risk of fire this year. Discussion followed regarding the very dry conditions.

Motion by Keith Sowl to adjourn; second by Marty Curry. Adjourned at 6:09 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted on 4/16/13

Patty Hobin, Town Clerk